

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kimberly Hurst and I reside in District 1. I am asking that you please render a Do Pass on HB 1491.

When student-athletes relocate to a new school and community, they should be welcomed without automatically facing unfounded accusations of misconduct. While policies and procedures exist to protect student-athletes and maintain the integrity of school athletics, it is essential to recognize that not all high-performing athletes should automatically be subjected to recruitment investigations simply because they have made the personal and life-changing decision to move.

Additionally, the fairness of the current process should be questioned, particularly regarding the practice of requesting access to individuals' homes to verify residency. Invading a family's private space in this manner raises serious concerns about privacy rights. No individual should be compelled to allow such an intrusion unless there is legal justification, such as a warrant issued in connection with a criminal investigation. The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) should not have the authority to disrupt or invade a family's home under the guise of verifying residency. The simple fact that this is legally permitted in the state of North Dakota should greatly concern you as lawmakers of this great state.

In respect for our student-athletes, their families, and the foundational relationships between them and the NDHSAA, I urge you to support and pass HB 1491 for the fair treatment of student-athletes in new communities. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to serving the state of North Dakota.

Kimberly Hurst